



IMAGE FORMING METHOD USING ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHY,
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC TONER, AND MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to an electrophotographic toner for single- or double-component development used for developing an electric latent image or magnetic latent image by an image forming apparatus such as an electrophotographic copier and printer, and a method for manufacturing the same.

Description of related art

In recent years, new apparatuses in the field of electrophotography such as copiers and printers have been developed with the objects of reducing apparatus size, and speeding up operation time, and providing high-quality images. In terms of the size reduction, all processes of electrophotography including developing systems and fixing systems have been examined. However, regarding developers, it is desired that developer filling parts such as a toner hopper have lower capacity and a longer life. In order to realize these features, it is desirable to develop a novel toner enabling a large number of printings with a small amount of toner.

In terms of the provision of high-quality images, the following methods have been developed: a method for obtaining sharp images by controlling the particle size, the electric characteristics, or the like of a toner as a developer, or controlling the color properties of the toner such as color development, transparency, and masking (hiding) properties; and a method for obtaining high-density images by attempting to increase the content of a colorant in a toner. Also, surface printing that uses a liquid recording material (ink) is capable of providing high-density images having uniform quality with a reduced recording material thickness on a printing medium in comparison with the case of electrophotographic images. For full-color electrophotographic images, process color toners including yellow, magenta, and cyan toners are usually used in addition to black toner, and various colors are reproduced through printing by

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